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ORD-1850-68

11 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, CODIB

SUBJECT: Agency Use of Methods Developed by the  
COINS Evaluation Panel

1. At the CODIB meeting of 3 April, you asked if the COINS Evaluation Panel could look into the possibility that the methods being developed by the panel for gathering and analyzing data on COINS might also be used to study agency systems.

2. At our meeting on 4 April, the Evaluation Panel discussed this request and agreed that I should transmit to you the following comments and suggestions:

We regard the study of agency systems as outside the purview of the COINS Evaluation Panel, except for the effects of competing agency system file activity on the performance of COINS; we do plan to gather data on these effects.

Although we would be pleased to have the agencies use the methods we develop in studies of their own systems, we respectfully suggest that inquiries concerning this possibility be deferred until the methods have been fully developed, approved, and tested out in practice for a brief period.

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We suggest further that such inquiries could more appropriately be made by a higher level body. Inquiries of the agencies by my panel as to their willingness to use the methods we are developing might be viewed as somewhat presumptuous.

3. In his comments at the CODIB meeting, which prompted your request, I believe that [ ] may have meant to emphasize that data on users' views of the utility of COINS should be analyzed in relation to their experience with their own agency systems. I might add, therefore, that the in-depth interviews we are planning will be designed to elicit information on experience with similar systems within the agencies.

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Chairman, COINS Evaluation Panel

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